

Chicago Community Meeting
April 19, 2002-7:00 p.m.
American Indian Center-Chicago

1. Tribal Chairperson Lisa Waukau called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Legislators present: Myron Pyawasit, Sylvia Wilber and Anthony Waupochick Sr.

Chairperson Waukau explained that her administration as Tribal Chairman started on February 9, 2002. When Chairperson Waukau took over the tribe's financial status was beaten down. Chairperson Waukau is convinced that with this new administration things will be turning around for the tribe.

Chairperson Waukau informed everyone of the reason that the Kenosha deal didn't go through. After Tommy Thompson left as Governor of Wisconsin to work with the Bush Administration the new Governor by the name of Scott McCallum took over. Once in office, Governor McCallum stated that he would not approve any more gambling in Wisconsin which ruined any hopes of getting the Kenosha deal passed.

The Menominee Tribal Legislature has been searching for alternative gaming areas but found that Kenosha is still a prime area. The tribe is continuing its efforts to acquire Kenosha for a casino and is hoping that once the Governor's term is up, a new administration will be elected. Next week Chairperson Waukau and members of the Legislature will be going to Las Vegas to meet with a management company and should know more details about the Kenosha project after that trip.

Chairperson Waukau explained that the window of opportunity is small due to the way Wisconsin views gaming and the tribe is going to work as fast as they can. The tribe has learned a great deal from the last time the Kenosha project was in the works and this time the tribe will know what to and not to do. The tribe will also be looking for financial backers who have deep enough pockets to see the deal through.

Chairperson Waukau stated that when the Legislature was working on the Kenosha project, the casino in Keshena was neglected. The Legislature is working adamantly to get the casino back on its feet. Some of the things that have changed at the casino is a new experienced Marketing Director was hired, new machines put in and soon a player tracking system will be installed. The tracking system will track what machines are being played and which ones aren't, how much money is being put into the machine and its payouts, what's being ordered in the bar & restaurant, what is being bought at the gift shop and what tables are losing all the time.

Chairperson Waukau stated that her administration's main focus is restructuring the Tribal government. The Legislature has developed a budget committee and restructuring committee to help in the process. The tribe has not looked at the structure in many years and these committees are hoping to weed out what's not working.

Sylvia Wilber spoke to everyone about Menominee Tribal Enterprises (MTE).

Sylvia started off by thanking everyone for being at the meeting and inviting them to the meeting.

Sylvia explained that the MTE was the driving force for us to save the forest and land in restoration. Everyone kind of forgot about MTE after the dividends stopped and the casino came into operation. MTE was basically left alone to run things any way they wanted to. Last year MTE made 2 million dollars and the tribe didn't see any of it.

Sylvia stated that right now the Legislature is working with MTE and Forestry and are finding a way of telling them that we want 1 million dollars a year in stumpage and that they need to start running things more profitably. We are trying to get the Forest and the Mill in separate entities. The forest belongs to everybody and it isn't right that just a few are profiting from it. In order to separate the entities, an amendment to the Tribal Constitution needs to be made. Once everything is in order, the information will be sent out to all tribal members and everyone needs to vote on it. Hopefully this process will be done by November.

Chairperson Waukau introduced Legislator Anthony Waupochick Sr.

Tony Waupochick thanked everyone for their support in the past election and assured everyone he will work very hard for the tribe. Mr. Waupochick stated that currently he is the new Chairman of the Board of Education committee and explained the process of the committee and who reports to the committee.

Mr. Waupochick informed everyone that he is currently employed at the College of the Menominee Nation and invited anyone visiting the area to stop in and he would give them a tour of the facility.

At 8:20 everyone broke for dinner.

The meeting started back at 9:00 p.m.

After dinner was over the Chicago members had a few activities to take care of. An elderly woman donated two eagle feathers in the memory of her grandchildren that passed away to use on the eagle staff. An honor song was played for that.

Chairperson Waukau introduced Legislator Myron Pyawasit.

Mr. Pyawasit briefly spoke about his involvement with the Law & Order Committee and the Casino Ad Hoc Committee that he currently sits on.

Previously the Chicago community members had questions regarding the proper way of receiving an Indian name. Mr. Pyawasit went into great detail on the naming process.

- o Chairperson Waukau ended the meeting by thanking everyone for being there and for the meal.
- o Chairperson Waukau held a drawing for prizes that were donated by the Casino, MTE and the College.
- o The drum that was present sang another song for the Legislator's.

Meeting ended at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by
Legislative Staff Services